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REMARKS

No claims are amended. No new claims are added. Claims 1-36 are pending for consideration. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be allowed and forwarded on to issuance.

The § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,609 to Katinsky et al (hereinafter “Katinski”). Before discussing the substance of the Office’s rejections, the following discussion of Applicant’s disclosure and Katinski is provided to assist the Office in appreciating the patentable distinctions of Applicant’s various claimed embodiments.

Applicant’s Disclosure

Applicant’s disclosure pertains to methods and systems that assist media players in rendering different media types. One problem associated with prior art media players is they all tend to display different types of media in different ways. For example, some media players are configured to provide a “visualization” when they play audio files. A visualization is typically a piece of software that “reacts” to the audio that is being played by providing a generally changing, often artistic visual display for the user to enjoy. Visualizations are often presented, by the prior art media players, in a window that is different from the media player window or on a different portion of the user’s display. This causes the user to shift their

1 focus away from the media player and to the newly displayed window. In a
2 similar manner, video data or video streams are often provided within yet
3 another different window which is either an entirely new display window to
4 which the user is “flipped”, or is a window located on a different portion of
5 the user’s display. Accordingly, these different windows in different
6 portions of the user’s display all combine for a fairly disparate and
7 unorganized user experience. It is always desirable to improve the user’s
8 experience.

9 In some embodiments of Applicant’s system, a unified rendering
10 area is provided and managed such that multiple different media types are
11 rendered by the media player in the same user interface area. This unified
12 rendering area thus permits different media types to be presented to a user
13 in an integrated and organized manner. In at least some embodiments, an
14 underlying object model promotes the unified rendering area by providing a
15 base rendering object that has properties that are shared among the different
16 media types. Object sub-classes are provided and are each associated with a
17 different media type, and have properties that extend the shared properties
18 of the base rendering object.

19 As but one illustration of an exemplary embodiment, the Office is
20 referred to Fig. 6. In Fig. 6, rendering objects 604-612 are subclasses of a
21 base object 602. Essentially then, in this model, rendering object 602
22 defines the unified rendering area and each of the individual rendering
23 objects 604-612 define what actually gets rendered in this area. For
24 example, below each of objects 606, 608, and 610 is a media player skin
25 614 having a unified rendering area 406. As can be seen, video rendering

1 object 606 causes video data to be rendered in this area; audio rendering
2 object 608 causes a visualization to be rendered in this area; and animation
3 rendering object 610 causes text to be rendered in this area. All of these
4 different types of media are rendered in the same location. This enhances
5 the user experience by presenting the various media in a unified, integrated
6 and organized way.

7 8 **The Katinsky Reference**

9 Katinsky does not teach or suggest a unified rendering area or the
10 supporting architecture that provides for such rendering area.

11 Katinsky teaches a web application for accessing media streams.
12 Katinsky's web page has four functional areas – a media icon access panel,
13 a sequencer, a site-driven area, and an object player. The media icon access
14 area organizes graphical icons into a hierarchical list and supports searches
15 for media objects. The sequencer allows the user to select media icons from
16 the media icon access panel and to create or modify play lists. The site-
17 driven area presents information associated with media objects that are
18 playing. The object player uses a program that can be embedded in a web
19 page that presents media objects. A cited example is Microsoft's Media
20 Player®. The object player ensures that the media objects are played in the
21 order defined by the play list.

Claims 1-5

Claim 1 recites a *media player* comprising [emphasis added]:

- a user interface configured to enable a user to interact with the media player to play different types of media; and
- *a rendering area within the user interface and within which multiple different types of media can be rendered for the user.*

In making out the rejection of claim 1, the Office argues that Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant respectfully but strongly disagrees.

The Office argues that Katinsky discloses “a media player comprising . . . a rendering area within the user interface and within which multiple different types of media can be rendered for the user.” Specifically, the Office argues that “the media access webpage has four functional areas, a sequencer, and object player.” In support of its argument, the Office cites to column 4, lines 7-65, which is reproduced below [emphasis added]:

As shown in FIG. 1, the media access *web page* 10 has four functional areas, including a media icon access panel 12, a sequencer 14, an *object player 16*, and a site-driven area 18. The media icon access panel 12 organizes media icons into a hierarchical outline or list, and supports searches for media objects. The sequencer 14 allows the user to select media icons from the media icon access panel 12, and to create and modify one or more user defined play lists. The object player 16 plays the media objects *in the order defined by the play list*. In addition, the object player 16 can control the play list and the individual media objects in the play list. The site-driven area 18 presents site-driven graphics synchronized with streaming content that responds to user actions and user selected content. The graphics can also be media icons

1 representing more media objects. The web page 10 can be
2 implemented with JavaScript and HTML 4.0, and can be
3 accessed with a web browser, such as Microsoft Internet
Explorer 4.0. Each of the components of the web page 10 will
be described in greater detail below.

4 The media icon access panel 12 has a series of subject matter
5 tabs 22 arranged along an edge of the panel. To begin
6 browsing the content of the site, the user selects one of the
7 subject matter tabs 22, for example, by clicking on it with a
8 mouse controlled cursor. As shown in FIG. 2A, clicking on a
9 subject matter tab 22 causes the top level of an outline 24 to
10 appear as a bulleted list containing bulleted items 26. In
addition, clicking the subject matter tabs 22 causes outline
item tabs 28 to appear at the bottom of the media icon access
panel 12. Each outline item tab 28 corresponds to one of the
top level bulleted items 26 in the outline 24.

11 As shown in FIG. 2B, clicking on either the text of a bulleted
12 item 26 or the corresponding outline item tab 28 at the bottom
13 of the media icon access panel 12 will cause the next level of
14 the outline to be displayed as a bulleted sublist 29. Clicking
15 on a bulleted item in a sublist causes the next lower level of
16 the outline to be displayed. In order to manage large outlines
17 without excessive scrolling, the sections of the outline will
18 expand and collapse so that only one item of each level of the
outline is expanded at a time. For example, FIG. 2B shows
the "News" section of the outline has been expanded.
Clicking on any bullet at the same level, such as the "Sports"
bullet, would expand the outline to show the items in that
bullet, but would also close the "News" section.

19 As shown in FIG. 2C, the lowest level of the outline is a list
20 36 of media icons 30. Each media icon 30 represents a media
21 object. Each media icon includes a graphic icon 32 indicating
22 the media type, such as audio, video, text, executable code,
23 graphic, or unknown, of the media object. Each media icon
24 also includes accompanying text 34 to briefly explain the
25 content of the media object. When a cursor 42 moves over a
media icon, the media icon is highlighted to indicate that it is
selectable. Clicking on a media icon 30 does not open another
level of the outline. Rather, as shown in FIG. 3A, holding the
mouse select button down when a media icon is highlighted

1 creates a copy 40 of the selected media icon, in a contrasting
2 color. The user can drag the media icon copy 40 with the
3 cursor 42. As shown in FIG. 3B, the media icon copy 40 can
4 be dragged out of the media icon access panel 12 and dropped
5 into the sequencer 14.

6 Applicant agrees that Katinsky's webpage has four functional areas,
7 one of which is an object player. Applicant respectfully points out that this
8 claim recites a *media player*. The cited excerpts of Katinsky, and indeed
9 Katinsky's disclosure as a whole, teach a *web page* in which a media player
10 is embedded. As noted above, Katinsky's object player utilizes the
11 embedded media player program to ensure that the media objects are played
12 in the order defined by Katinsky's play list.

13 Applicant is unclear as to which part of Katinsky's web page the
14 Office equates with the rendering area of Applicant's media player.
15 Nonetheless, Applicant has reviewed the Katinsky reference and
16 respectfully submits that Katinsky does not disclose a rendering area *within*
17 *the media player's user interface* and *within which multiple different*
18 *types of media can be rendered for the user*. Accordingly, for at least this
19 reason, this claim is allowable.

20 **Claims 2-5** depend from claim 1 and, as such, are allowable as
21 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
22 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
23 claim 1, are neither shown nor suggested the references of record, either
24 alone or in combination with one another.
25

1 **Claim 6**

2 **Claim 6** recites a *media player* comprising [emphasis added]:

- 3
- 4 • a user interface configured to enable a user to interact with
5 the media player to play different types of media, the different
6 types of media comprising video types, animation types, and
7 visualization types that can be presented and generally
8 synchronized with audio media that can be played by the
9 media player; and
 - 7 • a *rendering area* within the user interface and within which
8 multiple different types of media can be rendered for the user,
9 the media player being configured to *render all visual media*
10 *types* that can be rendered by the media player *in the*
11 *rendering area*.

10 In making out the rejection of claim 6, the Office argues that
11 Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant again respectfully but strongly
12 disagrees.

13 In support of its argument, the Office cites to Figures 6A-8C and
14 column 8, lines 1-60, of Katinsky, which is reproduced below [emphasis
15 added]:

16
17 As shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B, the *site-driven area* 18 can
18 display information related to the associated banner or media
19 object. This is indicated by a button or icon 134 appearing in
20 the site-driven area 18. If the user clicks on the button 134, an
21 expanded site-driven area 136 is opened. The expanded
22 sponsor area may provide additional information (if any is
23 available) details regarding the subject matter of the banner.
24 For example, a more extensive advertising page may be
25 presented.

22 The user can click on the media object indicator 130 on the
23 *banner* 122 to open a pop-up menu 138. The pop-up menu
24 functions are defined by the banner 122. Selecting "Play" can
25 have the same effect as dragging the banner to the image
display, i.e., the media object is played immediately.

1 Selecting "Play Later" causes the media icon for the media
2 object to be added to the end of the current play list 50. Other
3 menu options may permit the user to visit the sponsor's web
4 site or purchase products shown during presentation of the
5 media object.

6 When the media access page loads, the *sequencer* 14 will be
7 empty if the user has not visited the site before and if the site
8 has not pre-loaded the sequencer 14 with any media icons. As
9 the user loads the sequencer 14 with media icons, a record of
10 the sequencer's contents is saved on the site server. This
11 session state is preserved between visits, so that when the user
12 returns to the site, the sequencer will contain the same content
13 with which the user ended the previous session. In addition,
14 the site managers have the option of selectively creating and
15 preloading play lists and tabs for each user. Users can be
16 notified about content which is no longer available and it can
17 be removed from user play lists.

18 In addition, the user can create a personal preference profile
19 that determines content to be preloaded into the *sequencer*
20 14. For example, while browsing through the outline 24 in the
21 media icon access panel 12, the user may select an interface
22 feature, e.g., a button, to indicate that the user is interested in
23 receiving content related to the subject matter currently
24 displayed in the outline. When the user returns to the site, the
25 sequencer will be preloaded with media icons that fit the
user's personal preferences. The user preference profile can be
complex, and can be generated using the taxonomy of the
outline. The result of the preload may be a topical set of play
lists in the categories established by the user. Multiple
interface methods can be used to generate the profile. An
appropriate interface method may be selected depending on
the nature of the content. The personal preferences selection
method may be accessed by a top level tab of the media icon
access panel 12, or otherwise may be a primary user interface.

26 The *media icon access panel* 12 may permit a user to view a
27 history of the user's media object selections. For example, one
28 of the tabs on the media icon access panel can display an
29 outline of all play lists that have been created or all media
30 objects that have been added to the sequencer. The outline
31 may be organized by date, tab name, or current play list tab

names. Thus, over time, the creation of *play lists* and play list tabs sequencer tabs gives the user the option to view a personalized access area, e.g., an outline 22 in the described implementation, on the media icon access panel 12.

As highlighted above, the teachings of the cited excerpt relate to various parts of Katinsky's *web page* – namely the site-driven area, sequencer, and media icon access panel. Nowhere in the cited excerpt does Katinsky disclose anything relating to the media player embedded in the web page. Because Applicant claims a *media player* and the cited excerpt does not even *mention* a media player, Applicant is again unclear as to what the Office is equating with the rendering area of Applicant's media player. Nonetheless, Applicant has reviewed the Katinsky reference and respectfully submits that Katinsky does not disclose a rendering area *within the media player's user interface* and within which multiple different types of media can be rendered for the user. In addition, Katinsky neither discloses nor suggests a media player that is configured to *render all visual media types* that can be rendered by the media player *in the rendering area*. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claims 7-11

Claim 7 recites a *media rendering* method comprising [emphasis added]:

- providing a *media player* user interface;
- providing a rendering area within the user interface; and
- *rendering different media types within the rendering area.*

1 In making out the rejection of claim 7, the Office argues that
2 Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant again respectfully but strongly
3 disagrees.

4 In support of its argument, the Office simply states that this claim is
5 “analyzed as previously discussed with respected [sic] to claims 1-6
6 above.” As discussed above in responding to the rejections of claims 1 and
7 6, Katinsky’s teachings relate to a *web page* in which a media player is
8 embedded. As also noted above, Applicant is unclear what the Office
9 equates with Applicant’s rendering area within the user interface of its
10 recited media player. Therefore, Applicant is unclear what portion of
11 Katinsky the Office would argue discloses “providing a rendering area”
12 within a *media player user interface*. Applicant is equally unclear what
13 portion of Katinsky the Office would argue discloses “rendering different
14 media types *within the rendering area*.” Applicant has reviewed the
15 Katinsky reference and respectfully submits that Katinsky does not disclose
16 the subject matter of this claim. If the Office has a different opinion, then
17 Applicant respectfully invites the Office to point out the specific portion of
18 Katinsky that anticipates the subject matter of this claim. Accordingly, for
19 at least this reason, this claim is allowable.

20 **Claims 8-11** depend from claim 7 and, as such, are allowable as
21 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
22 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
23 claim 7, are neither shown nor suggested by the references of record, either
24 singly or in combination with one another.

1 **Claims 12-15**

2 **Claim 12** recites a *media player* comprising software code that is
3 configured to [emphasis added]:

- 4 • provide a rendering area *within a media player user*
5 *interface*; and
6 • *render different media types within the rendering area.*

7 In making out the rejection of claim 12, the Office argues that
8 Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant again respectfully but strongly
9 disagrees.

10 In support of its argument, the Office simply states that this claim is
11 “analyzed as previously discussed with respected [sic] to claims 1-6
12 above.” As discussed above in responding to the rejections of claims 1 and
13 6, Katinsky’s teachings relate to a *web page* in which a media player is
14 embedded. Katinsky’s object player does not meet the elements of this
15 claim. As also stated above, Applicant is unclear what the Office equates
16 with Applicant’s rendering area within the user interface of its media
17 player. Therefore, Applicant is unclear what portion of Katinsky the Office
18 would argue discloses a *media player* comprising software code that is
19 configured to provide a rendering area within a *media player user*
20 *interface*. Applicant is equally unclear what portion of Katinsky the Office
21 would argue discloses a *media player* comprising software code that is
22 configured to render different media types *within the rendering area*.
23 Applicant has reviewed the Katinsky reference and respectfully submits
24 that Katinsky does not disclose the subject matter of this claim. If the
25 Office has a different opinion, then Applicant respectfully invites the Office

1 to point out the specific portion of Katinsky that anticipates the subject
2 matter of this claim. Accordingly, for at least this reason, this claim is
3 allowable.

4 **Claims 13-15** depend from claim 12 and, as such, are allowable as
5 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
6 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
7 claim 12, are neither shown nor suggested by the references of record,
8 either singly or in combination with one another.

9
10 **Claims 16-24**

11 **Claim 16** recites an object model comprising [emphasis added]:

- 12
- 13 • a base rendering object associated with a rendering area in
14 which multiple different media types can be rendered, the
15 *rendering area providing at least a portion of a media player*
16 *user interface* that can be viewed by a user; and
 - 17 • multiple different media type rendering objects each of which
18 being associated with a different media type that can be
19 rendered in the rendering area, the different media type
20 rendering objects being configured to *render their associated*
21 *media*.

18 In making out the rejection of claim 16, the Office argues that
19 Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant again respectfully but strongly
20 disagrees.

21 In support of its argument, the Office cites to Katinsky's Figs 2 and
22 3, and column 5, lines 50-67, which is reproduced below [emphasis added]:

23
24 As shown in FIG. 6A, the user can create and organize
25 multiple *play lists* by use of the play list button 46. When the
user clicks on the play list button 46, a pop up menu 70

1 appears with four options: Create, Delete, Rename, and Go
2 To. The create option adds a play list, the delete and rename
3 options remove and rename a play list respectively, and the
4 Go To option switches to a different stored play list. As
5 shown in FIG. 6B, each new play list creates an additional tab
6 72 at the top of the play list box. The new play list 50 may be
7 populated by dragging media icons from the same or different
8 branches of the outline 24. The user created play lists are
9 similar in function to the favorites or book marks web
10 browsers have for web pages. The pop-up menu 70 may also
11 include a Play All option which causes every play list to be
12 played. In addition, the pop-up menu 70 may include a Play
13 Many option which allows the user to select a group of play
14 lists, e.g., by selecting the play list tabs 72, and to play the
15 media objects in the group. The functions of the play list
16 button 46 could be accessed by other interactive features on
17 the web page.

18 The pop-up menu 70 on the *play list* button 46 may also
19 include a mail feature that permits users to select and
20 exchange play lists. The mail feature may also be invoked by
21 a separate button, or by dragging media icons from sequencer
22 or media icon access area to a mailbox icon. The media
23 objects in the mailbox may later be mailed one or several
24 recipients.

25 As shown in FIG. 6C, when the addition of a new tab 72
causes a tab at the opposite end to "fall off" the *play list* box
44, a triangular corner marker 74 appears to indicate the
direction in which there are more tabs to view. The user can
click on the corner markers 74 to cause the tabs to shift left or
right, as appropriate, to display the next play list tab.

Once again, the Applicant is unclear what part of Katinsky's web
page the Office equates with Applicant's rendering area. The excerpt cited
in the rejection of this claim deals exclusively with play lists. However,
even if the Office's position is that Katinsky's play list is somehow
analogous to Applicant's rendering area (which it is not), Applicant

1 respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter is not anticipated by
2 Katinsky.

3 Katinsky's play list does *not* provide at least a portion of a media
4 player user interface that can be viewed by a user. Rather, the embedded
5 media player in Katinsky's web page is in a separate area of the web page
6 from the play list (see Katinsky's Fig. 1). Furthermore, even if the Office's
7 position is that the media icons in Katinsky's play list are somehow
8 analogous to Applicant's media type rendering objects (which they are not),
9 Katinsky's media icons in its play list are *not* configured to render any
10 associated media. Rather, Katinsky's object player utilizes an embedded
11 media player to render the media listed in the play list. The listing of media
12 icons is just that – a listing not configured to render *anything*.

13 In addition, it is unclear at best what the Office considers to
14 comprise the recited base rendering object of the recited object model.
15 Applicant can find no disclosure in Katinsky that speaks to this feature.

16 Accordingly, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

17 **Claims 17-24** depend from claim 16 and, as such, are allowable as
18 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
19 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
20 claim 16, are neither shown nor suggested by the references of record,
21 either singly or in combination with one another.

1 **Claims 25-34**

2 **Claim 25** recites one or more computer-readable media having
3 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a
4 computer, cause the computer to [emphasis added]:

- 5 • provide a base rendering object associated with a rendering
6 area in which multiple different media types can be rendered,
7 the *rendering area providing at least a portion of a media
8 player user interface that can be viewed by a user*; and
9 • provide multiple different media type rendering objects each
10 of which being associated with a different media type that can
11 be rendered in the rendering area, the different media type
12 rendering objects being configured to *render their associated
13 media*.

14 In making out the rejection of claim 25, the Office argues that
15 Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant again respectfully but strongly
16 disagrees.

17 In support of its argument, the Office simply states that this claim is
18 “analyzed as previously discussed with respected [sic] to claims 1-6 and
19 16-17 above.” As such, Applicant presumes that the Office’s position is
20 that Katinsky’s play list is analogous to Applicant’s rendering area and that
21 Katinsky’s media icons in its play list are analogous to Applicant’s media
22 type rendering objects. However, Katinsky’s play list does *not* provide at
23 least a portion of a media player user interface that can be viewed by a user.
24 Rather, the embedded media player in Katinsky’s web page is in a separate
25 area of the web page from the play list (see Katinsky’s Fig. 1).
Furthermore, Katinsky’s media icons in its play list are *not* configured to
render their associated media. Rather, Katinsky’s object player utilizes an

1 embedded media player to render the media listed in the play list. The
2 listing of media icons is just that – a listing not configured to render
3 *anything*. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

4 **Claims 26-34** depend from claim 25 and, as such, are allowable as
5 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
6 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
7 claim 25, are neither shown nor suggested by the references of record,
8 either singly or in combination one another.

9
10 **Claims 35-36**

11 **Claim 35** recites a *media player* comprising software code that is
12 configured to [emphasis added]:

- 13
- 14 • provide a base rendering object associated with a rendering
15 area in which multiple different media types can be rendered,
16 the *rendering area providing at least a portion of a media*
17 *player user interface that can be viewed by a user*;
 - 18 • provide multiple different media type rendering objects each
19 of which being associated with a different media type that can
20 be rendered in the rendering area, the different media type
21 rendering objects being configured to *render their associated*
22 *media* and sharing common properties;
 - 23 • receive media associated with a media type for rendering in
24 the rendering area;
 - 25 • call the base rendering object with the media type associated
with the received media;
 - ascertain, with the base rendering object, an associated media
type rendering object that is configured to render that media
type;
 - call the associated media type rendering object with the base
rendering object;
 - instruct the associated media type rendering object to render
the received media in the rendering area; and

- render the associated media in the rendering area with the media type rendering object.

In making out the rejection of claim 35, the Office argues that Katinsky anticipates this claim. Applicant again respectfully but strongly disagrees.

In support of its argument, the Office simply states that this claim is “analyzed as previously discussed with respected [sic] to claims 1-6 and 16-17 above.” As discussed above in responding to the rejections of claims 1 and 6, Katinsky’s teachings relate to a *web page* in which a media player is embedded. This claim, on the other hand, claims the *media player* itself. Also, as discussed above in responding to the rejection of claims 16 and 25, Applicant again presumes that the Office’s position is that Katinsky’s play list is analogous to Applicant’s rendering area and that Katinsky’s media icons in its play list are analogous to Applicant’s media type rendering objects. However, Katinsky’s play list does *not* provide at least a portion of a media player user interface that can be viewed by a user. Rather, the embedded media player in Katinsky’s web page is in a separate area of the web page from the play list (see Katinsky’s Fig. 1). Furthermore, Katinsky’s media icons in its play list are *not* configured to render their associated media. Rather, Katinsky’s object player utilizes an embedded media player to render the media listed in the play list. The listing of media icons is just that – a listing not configured to render *anything*. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, this claim is allowable.

Claim 36 depends from claim 35 and, as such, is allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. This claim is also allowable for

1 its own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim
2 35, are neither shown nor suggested by the references of record, either
3 singly or in combination one another.
4

5 **Conclusion**

6 All of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly,
7 Applicant requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the
8 Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a
9 Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for
10 the purpose of scheduling an interview.
11

12 Respectfully submitted,

13
14 Dated: 6/21/04

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